



Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Main Office 613-384-1919; Attendance 613-384-1355; Student Services 613-384-2023;
FAX 613-384-8665

For complete information about events at the school visit our website at www.hctoday.ca

Newsletter – March 2015

***School Pastoral Theme for 2014-2015 “BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS”
(Matthew 5:9)***

Message from the Principal

We are off to a great start to semester two. You will notice below information about our School Council sponsored speaker, **Dr. Greg Wells**, who will speak to interested parents in our cafeteria on **Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00 pm**. Over the past week, thanks to the efforts of our Wellness Team, led by **Lisa Lollar**, of KFL&A Public Health, and our very own **Terrie Hoey**, Youth Worker, we have fuelled up with a healthy breakfast, chilled out with tea and soft music in the Café at lunch, chatted with new friends in the ball pit, petted therapy dogs in the gym, and live-streamed a dance-off with RND. Dr. Wells will continue to deliver this important message: healthy choices a key to wellness. I hope you will take the time to drop by.

As we reach the end of the winter sports season, I wish to acknowledge the contributions of many community and staff coaches, who have been working with our student-athletes since November. A few highlights: our Improv Team, **Matt McGlashan, Miguel Martins, Andrew Hurt, Sara Doyle, Kort Clifford, Nick Lansdown, Marissa Sloboda, and Jacqueline Hulton**, placed first at the regional competition held at Queen's on February 21st and will return to the national finals in Ottawa this month. Coaches are Ms. Rose and Mr. Stabile. Coach Brady will be taking a team of six wrestlers to OFSSA next week: **Jonah Johnston, TJ Taylor, Connor Quinton, Ashley Callery, Jennifer Onweuedo**. Our Boys' Hockey Team, coached by **Mr. Clarke and Mr. Switzer**, lost to Frontenac in the KASSAA final last Thursday, but the girls' team, led by coaches Gillis, Bernabei and Nichol, defeated Napanee 1-0 to qualify for the OFSSA tournament next week in Ottawa. Our boys' curling team finished third, winning bronze at EOSSAA. Special thanks to coach Bland.

We operate in an educational climate that demands constant improvement. At Holy Cross, teachers have embarked on the next phase in our School Improvement Planning for semester two. For more detailed information please visit our website and click on “School Information” on the top navigation bar and look for our “SIP”.

And, finally, **Bully Free – The Way to Be** was the message on Wednesday, February 25th – designated Pink Shirt Day at Holy Cross. This day commemorates how a group of friends wore pink in an act of solidarity with a fellow student who had been a victim of bullying in their school. Eradicating bullying is not impossible. We know that bullying stops almost immediately if bystanders are courageous enough to step in and help. The solution is simple: support one another.

Ian Stuart, Principal

2nd – OSSLT Accommodation Letters sent home; Aboriginal Awareness Week begins.

4th – Spread the Word to End the R-word

5th – Reconciliation by grade

6th – **World Day of Prayer**

9th – Spring season tryouts begin

10th – Greg Wells at Holy Cross in the am and feeder schools in the afternoon; parent presentation in the evening.

11th – Jamaican Missionaries depart; Comm Tech Hollywood trip departs; 100 days to graduation for the class of 2015; Coffee House in the Caf

13th - Early Semester Report Cards issued; Last Day of Classes before March Break

23rd – First day back after March Break; 2nd Semester IEPs sent home

24th – COMPASS Surveys in all Pd. 1 classes today

25th – Wellness Wednesday #7

26th – EQAO Literacy Test for grade 10; Grade 9 Practice Literacy Test; Grades 11-12 Independent Study day. Parent-Teacher Interviews

27th – HC Earth Hour; March Non-Uniform Day; ThinkFast

29th – Palm Sunday

Absence Around Holidays

It is that time of the year again, when a scheduled holiday, March Break, creates challenges for families planning vacations. Nothing can replace the value of instruction and assessment in a class with a teacher and peers. While teachers are under no obligation to provide work packages for students taking vacations outside of March Break, our staff have been traditionally very supportive and accommodating. Nonetheless, please understand the difficulty of providing multiple packages for students and limit these requests when possible.



Eat Better. Move Better. Sleep Better

a presentation by Dr. Greg Wells

Dr. Greg Wells has dedicated his career to understanding human performance and how the human body responds to extreme conditions. On **Tuesday March 10th at 7:00pm**, Dr. Wells will address parents, staff, and any interested community members at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in Kingston in our cafetorium.

In this presentation Dr. Wells shows audiences how they can improve their health, fitness and performance using simple techniques that can make incredible differences in their lives. Visit his web page at <http://www.drgregwells.com/> or view his TED TALK at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sxY-jS7v3U>.

Counsellors' Corner – For March

- **COURSE SELECTION FOR 2015 - 2016**

The course selection process for next year was completed last week. It is critical that any student who has not selected their courses, do so, before **Friday, March 6th**. Students can access the course selection link through the HC website.

Click on the Maplewood Access link on the front page under "Student Services" and enter your username and password. Students can also use the library computers at lunch to adjust their choices. Contact a guidance counsellor if further assistance is needed. A verification sheet listing choices will be issued after April 6th.

- **COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

A reminder that university and college applicants who have made course changes recently must check their university/college site to make sure the changes have been made in their OUAC/OCAS file. See your counsellor as soon as possible if the academic info on either the OUAC or OCAS site is incorrect. Students are encouraged to visit post-secondary campuses during March Break Open Houses.

- **Queen's Enrichment Studies**

The Enrichment Studies at Queen's University offer unique opportunities for motivated students. Students interested in attending a week at Queen's (May 4-8) should register at esu@queensu.ca (esu@queensu.ca) by March 3rd, 2015. More information is available in Student Services.



← A couple of lonely **Holy Cross Fishing Club** members returning to the warm-up cabin at **Perfect Vue**, Hay Bay, on February 18th – without fish, by the way. Although it was a tough day on the hardwater for our anglers, a good time was had by all. A big thank you to **Mr. Gervais** and **Mr. Hunter**, HC Fishing Club leaders, for organizing this event and to the ALCDSB for approving it. The event was partially sponsored by a **Thrive Outside Grant**, that has as its goal, being active outside.



Pastoral Message for March – from Mr. Forster

LENT began on February 18th with the celebration of our ASH WEDNESDAY MASS and the distribution of ashes, which serve as a reminder of our human weaknesses and ongoing need for God. The day before, lots of pancakes were served up at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast. Thanks to the Brown's Cafeteria Staff, and to students and staff for their support of this ShareLent Campaign Event which raised over \$400.00 for our Jamaica Mission Projects. On Thursday, March 5th, we will celebrate our Grade Level Reconciliations with many local priests making themselves available to speak with students and staff and to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

CICS' Executive and Student Council are busy organizing this year's **ShareLent Campaign**. Classes will fundraise over the coming weeks in support of various charities both overseas and here in Kingston, including the Kingston Boys & Girls' Club, the Catholic Organization for Development & Peace, World Vision Canada as well as for the projects our Mission Group will be working with in Kingston, Jamaica. Students from CICS participated in an overnight Toronto Street Retreat in February and we are hoping to take more students on similar volunteer experiences here in Kingston. We are also getting ready for our annual annual 25-hour **Thinkfast** which will take place on Friday, March 27th; and don't forget the

Blessed Are the Peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)

God's blessings on all our students and staff as we begin the month of March and continue our efforts during Lent to be "Peacemakers" through acts of charity and justice.

Sixteen students and four staff will be representing our school on this year's **Jamaica Mission Trip**. From March 11 – 18th we will be working with St. Patrick's Foundation at Riverton City and St. Margaret's Remedial Schools, and at St. Monica's Home for Abandoned Elderly. We will also visit the Canadian High Commissioner and spend an evening with the Seaview Garden Performing Arts Band. We are still in need of donations of school supplies, wheelchairs, and sports uniforms. Please call the school if you are able to help out. We will hear about the group's experiences in Jamaica at our Holy Week Liturgies.

annual **Youth Poverty Challenge at McArthur College on Monday, March 30th.**

Chris Forster, Chaplaincy Team Leader



*We thank Mr. Prior and his **Grade 11 Yearbook Class**, in particular, **Sarah Szumlanski** and **Angie Valiquette** for the banners that appear in our monthly newsletters.*



A Letter to Parents Regarding the Upcoming March 2015 OSSLT Online Trial for Grade 9 Students

Ontario's **Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)** is in the midst of a multi-year project to move its provincial student assessments from paper-and-pencil to computer-based. The first test to be offered online will be the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) when it is written by students in Grade 10 next school year. As part of the transition, EQAO has been conducting a number of trials, field tests and studies this year. EQAO will be offering all Grade 9 students across the province an opportunity to try out the online OSSLT this March. Our Grade 9 students will be participating in this online trial on **March 3rd** and **March 4th**. The key purpose of this activity is to make sure that students have prior exposure to the technology they will be assessed with in the future. Since our Grade 9 students will be the first group to have a chance to write the OSSLT online when they move to Grade 10, we would like to give them this initial opportunity to become familiar with the system and its features. We also want to give our teachers and administrators an opportunity to experience the new online assessment system. Another objective of this March trial is for EQAO to perform a "load test" of the system. The trial period will give EQAO a chance to make sure the system works well when thousands of students are logged in at the same time. Students will have 75 minutes for the online trial and will be given a feedback survey to fill out upon completion. Student results will not be reported publicly; however, EQAO will provide us with a report of our students' results on the multiple-choice items. Although participation will not affect students' grades and does not count as a formal attempt on the OSSLT, the online trial is an important first opportunity for our students, teachers and administrators to personally experience the testing environment before the tests are live next school year.

Sincerely, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

March Update from Special Education and Resource

Semester One Report Cards with attached Individual Education Plans have been sent home. It is important to discuss the subject teacher and SERT comments in the IEP with the marks and comments on the report card to plan how best your child can improve academic achievement in semester two. Examination accommodations were used by many students. Students in grades 9 and 10 receive double time which is consistent with EQAO grade 9 Math and Grade 10 OSSLT guidelines. Most seniors receive time and a half unless the recommendation from their psychological assessment states otherwise.

The Draft Individual Education Plan for semester two will be sent home on March 23, 2015. The IEP is a living document designed to support academic success. Please discuss with your son or daughter if there is a need for any updates in their documentation/accommodations for semester two. Complete the IEP Consultation, sign and return the Contact Form. For more information contact your special education resource teacher with comments, changes, or concerns: at 613-384-1919, Ms. Gavan Knox, Department Head/grade 12 @ext.3426, Mrs. Hulse, Grade 9(M-Z),10 @ ext. 3428 and Mrs. Poels, grade 9 (A-L),11 @ext. 3425.

Identification, Placement and Review Committee Meetings (IPRCs) will be scheduled in semester two.

The last practice session for the **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test** is March 3rd. All students on IEPs were given the opportunity to use their accommodations in the Resource Room 117 during the five sessions. All students who use the Kurzweil text reader, will now have an individual password to access this program. Students are asked to come to room 117 to obtain their password.

Post-Secondary Transition Planning: To prepare your Transition Portfolio, please see Ms. Gavan Knox, room 136, or contact her at gavankno@alcdsb.on.ca

There are a variety of scholarships available for students with learning disabilities. Autism Ontario offers the Eleanor Ritchie Post-Secondary Education Award to students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder as well as the Jeanette Holden Post-Secondary Education Entrance Scholarship for Siblings of Individuals with ASD. See www.hctoday.ca for a list.

Course selection for students on IEPs: If assistance in the course selection process is needed, contact your special education resource teacher (SERT).

Learning Strategy Credits: Students on IEPs are allowed to take four GLE courses as part of their elective credits to complete their Ontario Diploma requirements. All students with IEPs are tracked by a SERT during their studies at Holy Cross- whether they take a GLE course or not.

SEA Laptops: Students who do not have their laptop loaded with semester two courses, are asked to attend room 117 to do so. Please contact Mrs. Hulse @ ext. 3428.

EQAO Mathematics and Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) questions/concerns: Contact Mrs. A. Poels @ ext. 3425.

March 4th is **Spread the Word to End the R-Word** (Retarded), a day to build awareness for society to stop and think about it's use of the R-word. Use of that R-word, "retard" or "retarded," is hurtful and painful and whether intended or not, is a form of bullying. The R-word campaign challenges Holy Cross students, staff and community to pledge against using the r-word in our everyday speech.

Looking Forward to April

Wednesday, April 1st – Holy Cross Spring Uniform Sale from 3:30 to 8:00 pm; KASSAA Badminton finals; Limestone Skills Competition at St. Lawrence College

Thursday, April 2nd – Holy Thursday and Holy Week Liturgies in the Cafeteria; Autism Awareness Day



Friday to Monday, April 3rd to April 6th – Easter Weekend

Tuesday, April 7th – Semester 2 Mid-Term testing period begins

Wednesday, April 8th – Students' Council Nomination Packages due to Mr. Coleman; Catholic School Council Meeting #8;

Thursday, April 9th – Bring your smile: Spring Team Photographs today; 98th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge;

Friday, April 10th – Course Verification Selection Sheets due for 2015-2016; Grad Retreat @ Rideau Acres

Monday, April 13th – competition starts for the KASSAA Spring Season

Tuesday, April 14th – Mid-Semester Testing Period ends; final day for Grade 10 Civics and Careers.

Wednesday, April 15th – Euclid Math Competition; First day for Grade 10 Civics and Careers; Wellness Wednesday #8.

Monday, April 20th – Mid-semester marks due to the office

Tuesday, April 21st – HC Band Trip departs for Festival Disney

Thursday, April 23rd – Second semester marks submitted to OCAS and OUAC (college and university)

Friday, April 24th – April Non-Uniform Day; Pitch In to clean up Day

Sunday, April 26th – Students' Council Elections begin

Monday, April 27th – Spring Uniform begins; Mid-Semester Reports issued.

Thursday, April 30th – Students' Council Town Hall Assembly